NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Vol. 17, No. 6
Dec. 15, 1986
12 pages

Niagara News

Published by the Journalism-Print Program
Niagara College Welland, Ont.

Merry Christmas

and lucky New Year

By MAUREEN MARTIN
Staff Writer

The time has come to break for the holidays. Classes will resume next year — in 1987.

A new year means a chance to put mistakes aside and start fresh. Celebrations abound and steps are taken to bring good luck to the coming year.

In China, house windows are decorated with texts honoring the most important festival in the Chinese calendar. It is a time when the gods of wealth and procreation are encouraged to visit and the devils of bad luck are warned to stay away.

Scotland has the custom of first footing, which is based on the belief that whatever happens in the first minutes of New Year will affect the entire year. This means the first person to step over the threshold after midnight must be someone who represents good fortune.

The first foot must be a tall, dark-haired male. A red-haired man is bad luck and a woman is disastrous — the old fear of letting a witch in the door.

First foot brings with him presents of coal, bread and money — the basic needs of a household.

If one is not acquainted with a tall, dark-haired man, there are other ways to bring success to the New Year, such as keeping red onions somewhere in the house.

See 'New Year' page 2

Photo by Martin Pokol

the News

Budget criticism

Controversy over budget policies...p.3

Power rally

Niagara citizens battle against toxic dump site...p.5

Sports

Knights hockey team lose by a touchdown...p.12

As the wind pierces through the barren, leafless trees, the approaching bleak winter weather becomes more than a thought. This lonely road will not provide much comfort and only a litle shelter this winter when the ground is blanketed with snow and the wind is biting winter coats. People that would dare walk along this bleak stretch will do best to make sure there is a warm fire blazing at home to welcome them in from the cold.

Photo by Gary Bellinger

From Page 1

New Year

If a woman cooks cabbage on New Year's Day, her family and home will have good luck all year. Eating cabbage on this day will also bring luck. Placing a coin under your plate on New Year's Day will bring luck — and fortune — in the year ahead.

If one does not want to plan too far into the future, then simply saying, "Rabbits," on the first day of each month will bring good fortune.

One of the greatest uncertainties in any year is the weather. However, by using the 12 days of Christmas to represent the 12 months of the following year, a person can predict the weather. For example, if it rains on the fourth day, the month of April will be a wet month.

One may also use the first Friday of the month as an indicator of the weather for the rest of the month.

All these superstitions have little, if any, basis in the scientific world. Luck cannot be influenced by cabbages, or anything else, and the weather remains a mystery.

A positive attitude and a handy umbrella will go a long way towards making 1987 a successful year. Rabbits, everyone.

Welland dance troupe show video premiere

By DONNA MORRISON
Staff Writer

There are about 60 children on a waiting list hoping to be a part of the junior group; the adult group just returned from a successful three-week tour in France and the entire group is known for its folklore dance and music. It is a dance troup, the only one of its kind in the Niagara Region.

The Welland dance troupe, Vive la Joie, had the premiere of its first video in the Hamilton Room Dec. 4 for the francophone community; the video contained glimpses of their performances and tours. A wine and cheese reception was held in the cafeteria.

The troupe is made up of a junior and adult group, who, in total, have 300 performances to their credit in only six years. All of their music is in French and includes sing-alongs.

Instead of just performing for the audience, they make the audience part of the performance, Monique Morin, of French Languages Services, said.

That may be one reason the troupe is seen as unique in Canada; the other reason could be the wide variety of ages in each group. The founder and director, Marguerite Beaulieu-Glaude, said the junior group has 32 members ages five to 13 and the adult group has five musicians and 28 dancers, from 15 to 70.

But the major age difference is not a barrier. "The age difference doesn't exist in the group," Mrs. Beaulieu-Glaude said. There is a lot of love and friendship between the members and this is reflected in their dancing.

Two founding members of the junior group, Martin Glaude-Beaulieu and Maureen Jesseau, said being a part of the group was a lot of fun. They usually perform at elementary schools and try to involve the school children in their dancing; practices are every Saturday monring.

The dance troupe is something for everyone and it also has no age barrier; old and young alike can enjoy the French music and dancing as they participate in the festivities.

New lab for French

A new French Language Services laboratory has just been installed in Portable 2 at the college finally replacing an 18-year-old lab used by students learning French.

Claire Moccio, administrator of French Language Services, said the old system was "in good hands with Marcella Pittana", French teacher who operates the lab, because she was able to stretch the lab's life from a supposed 10 to 12 years to an amazing 18 years.

The new system replaces the old one that had its share of technical problems. The new one is electronic and can help students improve their skills and speech in French and unlike the old, students can operate the system from their own individual stations for private use; Mrs. Pittana can operate the entire system for all 20 stations. The lab can be hooked up to a video system for visual aid and added information.

"We finally have a lab that's up-to-date," Mrs. Moccio said.

The new Sony system was installed at the end of November.

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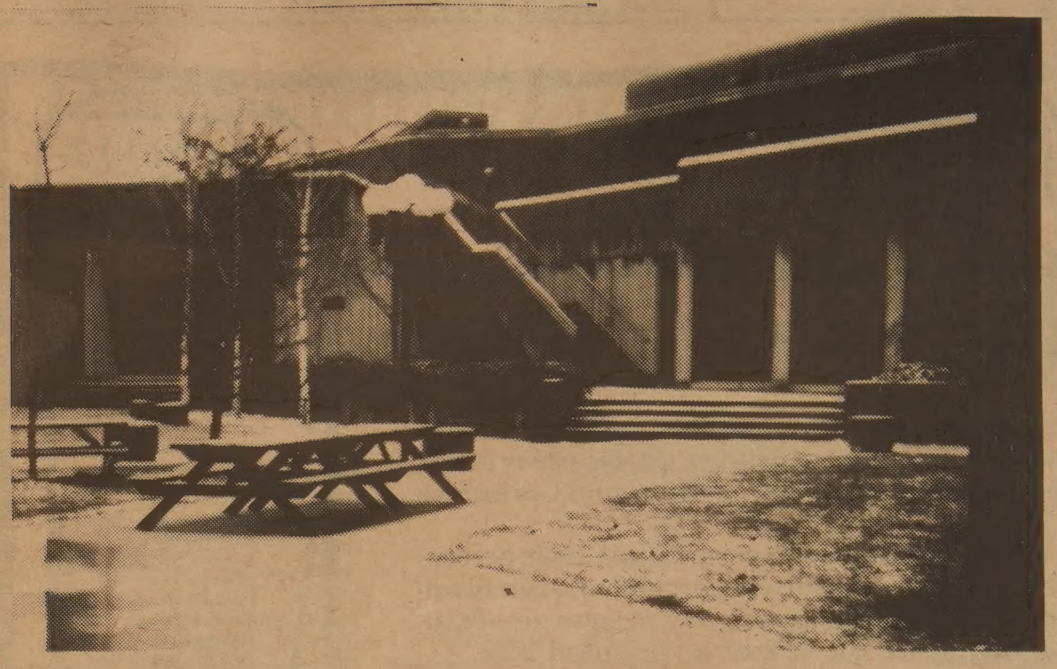
3rd PAGE



Winter lounge

Manera court lies dormant as the snow settles and melts then settles again. How many times will it fall before students once more burden the benches and tables with books and tired bodies? However, an occaisonal adventerous spirit may brave the cold for the pleasure of a winter picnic.

Photo by Suzanne Hernandez

Wants all elected

SAC opposes appointed reps, plan to speak to deans

Student Administrative Council class representatives should also be curriculum committee representatives, Kathleen Harvey, SAC president, says. SAC will make this recommendation to college deans in the New Year.

Dr. Nora McCardell, executive director of educational and student services, agrees, and plans to make a presentation Wednesday to the President's Executive Council.

After a meeting last week between the SAC executive and Dr. McCardell, Kathleen said, "We have had students from three programs who said students were appointed to the curriculum committees when they should have been elected by their own classmates."

The curriculum committees are made up of two or more faculty members, the program co-ordinator, the divisional chairman and two students from each program of each term, some of whom are not elected at present.

This goes against Niagara College Policies and Procedures manual, Kathleen said.

The manual stated the policy thus: "These committees will provide a forum in which studented, faculty and administration jointly discuss the curriculum of each program with the aim of providing relevant courses to meet student and employer needs." Further down it states, "Two student representatives elected by students in each program year" are required.

Dr. McCardell suggested that the present policy be "amended slightly" and that one class representative and one curriculum committee representative should both be elected. "I want to make sure the academic policies are fulfilled."

Kathleen said many faculty members are not aware that the committee representatives are to be elected not appointed.

"It would solve a lot of communication problems because right now it's (the position of student curriculum committee members and class representatives) just repetition."

Drop in participation CE gets labor studies

Labor studies and management relations studies, started in the "early years" of the Niagara College, may become part of continuing education.

"It's been difficult to get union people involved in courses," Jacqueline Robarts, Niagara College president, said. Industry now receives grants to educate their staff outside the college.

The reduction of people participating in those courses "is to the point where the revenue generated by that area is much less than expenses necessary to mount such courses," Miss Robarts said.

The labor and management courses are part-time courses and continuing education would run only the courses the community wanted.

The program began in the early years of the college and was "the first such program" in Ontario, Miss Robarts said.

The transfer to continuing education will be done in stages. Fred Habermehl, dean of applied arts and health sciences, will discuss the recommendation with the advisory committee. All information will go back to the Board of Governors before the board makes a decision.

In continuing education there has to be sufficient enrolment for a course to run.

"While the college is anxious to assist management groups in educational pursuits, the revenue generated must be sufficient to meet expenditures," she said.

Ontario Basic Skills gives sound education

By BLAIR CARR
Staff Writer

It is never too late to receive a sound, basic education.

Ontario Basic Skills is a free course offered by the Ontario government for those 25 or older, lacking in math, science and English. It concentrates mostly in literacy and numeracy skills.

The 400-hour course, offered at the St. Catharines Campus, is a "starter program" in which students can be taught from an elementary level to Grade 12 in these area, Suzanne Arnedt, coordinator, said.

"It is not geared to people with sound academic training," she said. The course is aimed at someone with less than a Grade 9 education. "A large percentage of these people are unemployed,"Mrs. Arnedt said.

FOR DISADVANTAGED

The Ministry of Skills Development intends the course to be directed at the "disadvantaged" or those "underrepresented in the work force." They may include women, native Canadians, disabled persons, members of visible minorities and older workers.

Support allowance funds are available to cover daycare and travel expenses. The program can be attended on a full or part-time basis.

Mrs. Arnedt said the course is "designed depending on the student's academic goal."

Someone whose goal it is to be a registered nursing assistant does not need the same math skills as an electronic technologist."

The OBS program is new. It started on Nov. 10 and 60 students are enrolled. Also there is a branch of the course taking place at the Welland campus consisting of women laid off by factories in the area.

Besides math and English, the program offers 25 hours of counselling and 15 hours of job readiness training.

For more information call: Niagara College, St. Catharines Campus at 684-4315 ext. 424.

Trip deposit

The Student Administrative Council and Proto Tours have extended deposit dates for Florida, Mount Ste. Ann and Quebec until Jan. 10.

Spring break vacations, which are open to all college students, have been scheduled for the first week of March.

Budget, policies: Administration, union differ

By MAUREEN MARTIN
Staff Writer

The union representing college faculty and support staff, criticizing the 1986-87 budget for a projected $438,000 deficit, asked the Board of Governors "to more closely scrutinize" the college budgeting process. The Board reply expressed confidence in Jacqueline Robarts, college president, and her administration.

Last week, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union expressed "dismay and disappointment" that the reply did not address "any of the issues and concerns raised" in a brief submitted to the board at the Nov. 27 meeting.

The brief said the union is "perplexed that the budget was hidden and not presented to the launch an attack upon the administration of Niagara College."

RESERVES GONE

The union brief said, "We are overwhelmed by the suddenness of the plans to operate once again at a deficit position ($438,000), thereby eliminating the last of the college's reserves. The reserves were intended for use in emergency situations, not for routinely balancing the budget."

The union said it is "baffled by the secrecy and incompleteness" of financial and other information surrounding the Futures Program. The union also wonders "why it is necessary to make the extraordinary move of appointing an internal auditor" for the college.

"In order to prevent further serious deterioration in the quality of education," the board is asked to "more closely scrutinize the current and future budgeting process" at the college. "The survival of our college is at stake."

MORE DIFFICULT

The board statement said the brief "can only make it even more difficult for Niagara College to cope with the critical problems which it and the other community colleges face as a result of the underfunding of the college system."

However, the board "notes with appreciation that it has received a number of letters from union members stating that they were not given an opportunity to approve the brief or even read it prior to its delivery, and that they are not in agreement with its contents."

The union's statement issued Dec. 8 said, "We're not just union members. We work at this college. We live in this community. Some of our children are students here. We have both a professional and a personal interest in the future, quality and direction of the insititution. The submission was not a frivolous gesture by meddlesome union. It was a sincere attempt to communicate our concerns, strongly and clearly."

Board officially until September" rather than April 1, the beginning ot the fiscal year.

The board, "after careful and lengthy discussion," released a statement the next day saying it "regrets that the leadership of OPSEU Locals 242 and 243 has chosen to take a serious situation that is facing all of the community colleges and use it to

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Season for Christmas illness

Some Christmas shoppers suffer from a strange affliction known as last-minute-itis at this time of year. The symptoms occur about a week before Christmas, in more severe cases around Christmas Eve.

People suffering from this disease temporarily lose their perception of time and space because, after driving around an overcrowded parking lot for an hour, they desperately try to squeeze a family wagon into a parking space the size of a two-speed bike.

The most common last-minute-itis symptom is aching feet. Sufferers will walk for hours from one end of the shopping mall to the other in search of just the right gift for auntie.

Sufferers may sometimes become violent. Two or more of them might be seen wrestling each other to the ground over the last Cabbage Patch doll.

Watery eyes are another last-minute-itis symptom. This will often occur when, because they are pushed for time, sufferers pay an exorbitant price for something they know will be on sale in a week's time.

For sufferers from this disease at Christmas, accept some advice from a long-time sufferer: take an aspirin, give money to relatives and tell them to buy their own Christmas presents.

Suzanne Hernandez

Editorial

New Year, old flaws

As the excitement of the festive season continues after Christmas, the anticipation of New Year's resolutions takes over.

This is the time of the year when people take an honest look at themselves in the mirror and ask, "Where did I go wrong?"

After confronting their inner selves, they make a list of promises, intending to change their personalities and lifestyles.

After the list is complete, they display it proudly to their friends — subjecting themselves to public ridicule should they fail to follow through with their resolutions.

If all of these promises are carried out, the world will be a beautiful place to visit but nobody would want to live here. What's life without a few obstacles such as second-hand smoke, drug abuse, impaired drivers, fast food and character flaws?

Well, here's to all those who break their resolutions — they keep us human!

By Kelly McCallum

Women's poetry sought

All women of the college have the opportunity to write poems that could be published in Ottawa next year as part of an International Women's Week project.

Ann Dubras, 107 Beaver Ridge, Nepean, Ont., is seeking women's poetry for distribution during the week of March 1 to 8.

She asks for previously unpublished poems which illustrate women's feelings through transition periods of their lives, concentrating on one phase at a time; the concept of finding oneself; or ideas of world vision. All poems must be written by women and the invitation is open to all women at the college.

Art work may be included with the poetry. All material must be received no later than Dec. 20.

She feels this project will offer a unique opportunity to publish and possibly encourage a future writing career to those who might have thought it an impossible dream.

Letter

Thanks to participants for testing knowledge

Dear Participants in "Women's Rights" Contest:

On behalf of Bette Ferguson, Affirmative Action Co-ordinator, and myself, I would like to thank you for participating in our Women's Rights Contest which was held during October and November in the Career Library, Niagara College. We appreciate your interest and hope that you enjoyed testing your knowledge on the progress of women's rights.

I would also like to thank the Fashion Club Boutique and Carol Timm for their generous donation for one of the prizes. The winners are being announced in the Niagara News.

The answers to the quiz, as well as many other interesting facts and information on women's issues, may be found in the Women's Resource Area located in the Career Library here at Niagara College.

I hope that you will drop in and visit the Career Library any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

Sincerely,

Mary Farrar
Career Library

Talk, treats in SAC

The first annual Student Administrative Council Open House on Dec. 9 allowed students to voice their concerns.

"We heard a lot of student concerns, especially about procedures," Kathleen Harvey, SAC president, said. "It's surprising that students didn't know where to come to voice their concerns before we had our Open House."

About 50 students showed up for eggnog, candy canes, buttons and pens available at lunch. SAC attack T-shirts were being sold for half price.

Focus On Weather

You can't blame the weatherman

By KELLY McCALLUM
Staff Writer

You can't always blame the weatherman. The mysterious voice over the radio and the smiling face on the television screen are simply telling what they've been told. You know, sunny skies on a rainy day or perhaps a snow storm in July. They're just doing their job — reporting the weather.

Much to everyone's surprise these people are not snickering at the kids who are freezing on a so-called warm October day. They can be found huddled around the telephones, teeth chattering, waiting for the latest weather observations from the presentation office.

But don't be too hasty. You can't blame these people either. They just distribute the information they get from the weather forecasting centre.

The forecasting centre for the Niagara Region and most of Ontario is located in Toronto at the Lester B. Pearson airport. The Toronto Weather Centre uses hourly observations throughout North America, weather balloons and satellites and radars in determining weather forecasts.

A forecast is a prediction of weather within the next 48 hours. An outlook describes weather three to five days away and is not as dependable as a forecast, Ed Route, a supervisor at the Toronto Weather Centre, said.

Meteorological technicians or weather specialists give the weather centre hourly reports on the weather in their regions. Several presentation offices send up weather balloons every 12 hours. The problem with these reports is that they are surface reports, taken from below the actual weather front.

Weather satellites allow the centre to see the weather from above, permitting the meteorologist to create a three-dimensional picture of the situation in his mind. The information gathered is sorted through and then goes to a computer for analysis and forecast charts are prepared.

Curt McConkey and Mike Palethorpe are the meteorological technicians at the Niagara Weather Office at the Niagara District Airport in St. Catharines.

Apart from distributing weather reports to the media, farming, marine and aviation industries, they also give reports on weather from the past. "There's a lot of sending letters to lawyers and industries on past weather for court cases for traffic or other accidents," Mr. Palethorpe said.

Meteorological technicians do not receive the same training as meteorologists. The prerequisite for training as a meteorological technician is a high school diploma, Mr. Palethorpe said. A meteorologist must have a bachelor's degree in science. Three government-sponsored courses are the training required to become a meteorological technician.

The weather reports in your region are still in the hands of the meteorological technicians. If the weather outside conflicts with the report from the weather centre, it is the technician's responsibility to adjust the reports accordingly.

When you're caught without your umbrella or your tennis shoes are buried in the snow, just remember you're not alone — the weatherman is right behind you.

Alcohol high risk at home

Children of alcoholic parents have a higher risk of health problems from physical and emotional stress and as victims of sexual and physical abuse, Carmela DiFlumeri, of the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF), said.

Many children fail to complete school and have life-long problems with social adaptation and mental health, she said during Alcohol Awareness Week Nov. 27. The most extreme cases end in suicide.

"There is a lot of drinking in homes where there is physical abuse," she said.

Fifty per cent of the children who grow up with alcoholism have emotional problems while 25 per cent end up with an alcohol problem.

Family quarrels

The film, Soft as a Heart of a Child, shown in the Hamilton Room as part of the presentation, focused on children and their struggle to live with parents who abuse alcohol. It shows how frightened they are when their parents are drinking and fighting over a tight money situation. The weekly pay cheque is spent on alcohol with both parents ignoring the problem and often covering it up.

Neglect of children has many side effects. The children cry out for attention and in doing so they lose ground at school, pick fights with teachers and classmates, and in some cases steal and lie. Others withdraw from their family and school.

Many teachers throughout the country are now on the lookout for these symptoms in children.

For more information contact the ARF in St. Catharines at 685-1316.

CNIB helps visually impaired adjust

By SUSAN DORSEY
Staff Writer

Limited sight or blindness is hard for sighted people to imagine but adapting is the key action. Ten fingers and six dots replace a sense which is too often taken for granted.

Braille, the alphabet of the blind, is based on six raised dots, each representing a letter.

Blindness is not just dark, it includes visual impairment, which is varying degrees of perception between light and shadow, colors, and shapes and forms, to limited reading ability.

Rely on music

Nearly 300 blind Canadians — piano tuners, performers, teachers, students, composers and music lovers — rely on music as their primary source of employment and enjoyment. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind offers a collection of more than 17,000 braille music scores available to blind musicians throughout Canada.

Blind students or employees can have any text or document transcribed into braille or on to audio-tape. Drawings, maps and graphs are available to accompany some taped or brailled material.

The CNIB has created books called touch and see, which contain braille and words on the same page.

George Neal, district representative for the CNIB who went blind at 31, said blind children have entered regular schools and these books have made it easier for the teacher and child. A worker goes to the school to check on progress or to help if there is a problem. There are 30 visually impaired children in elementary schools in the Niagara Region.

Visually impaired people from pre-schoolers to senior citizens can benefit from the loan of braille material, talking books and cassette playback machines at no cost.

Many people go blind after the age of 65 and they must be willing to learn another language because "braille is another language," Mr. Neal said.

Note-taking is done with a pointed instrument used to punch dots on paper which is held under a metal slate. The cost is $20. A brailler, which is a braille typewriter which is faster than the pin and slate, costs nearly $500. There are more efficient machines which can cost from $10,000 to $20,000. One of these machines uses electrical impulses and the other speaks the letters.

Four grades

There are four grades in braille. The grades range from one to three and include one-and-a-half. Each grade cuts out more letters, making writing and reading easier. Mr. Neal said there is a shorthand braille for students which uses fewer spaces.

Braille is available in different languages and has existed since 1829 when it was invented by Louis Braille, who went blind as a child.

Mr. Neal said years ago doctors did not realize that a child was blind until he was seven or eight; today doctors are discovering blindness within a few weeks of the child's birth. If a child is born blind it must be taught things which come naturally for sighted children, like walking.

CNIB programs

Among programs offered by the CNIB are library service, closed-circuit television and a daily living skills program "for those who ask. We don't push them on anyone," Mr. Neal said.

Programs such as Meals-on-wheels, house cleaning and snow shovelling help these people to become "as independent as possible," he said.

The CNIB receives its funding from the United Way, the provincial government, clubs and private donations. "We make use of any avenue we can to cut costs," Mr. Neal said.

The telephone company offers exemptions from directory assistance which is 60 cents a call; tax refunds are given to a blind person who buys a car; free transportation is given on city bus systems; theatres allow a blind person and an escort into the movies free, and inter-city buses and trains offer a two-for-one rate if the blind person brings an escort, otherwise he must pay full price.

The CNIB programs at the local level reflect the shift toward providing the blind and visually impaired person with the skills to live independently in the community. It works with families who have a visually impaired member going through adjustment.

The CNIB has been in the Niagara Region for more than 40 years. It started over a store in downtown St. Catharines in 1943. In 1948 it moved to a building which was an orphanage.

It became the first residence for the blind in the city. In 1984 the 20-year lease ran out and the residence closed. The CNIB office moved to 63 Church St., Suite no. 309, St. Catharines.

Winter wonderland at Port displays Christmas spirit

By GARY BELLINGER
Staff Writer

If you want to see Christmas all wrapped up into one little package, the place to go is in Port Colborne at the home of Ernie Marsh, where for the past 40 years Ole Saint Nick has been surrounded by his reindeer, candy canes, wreaths and a whole assortment of Christmas delights.

One gets the feeling of walking through a winter wonderland as you look at Santa Claus being carried along by his reindeer, with Rudolph in the lead, candy canes, fireplaces and angels on the lawn as all your favorite Christmas carols are being trumpeted over loudspeakers.

The display was originally situated on Charlotte Street where the Post Office is. Now it is just off Lakeshore Road West on Oakridge Crescent. The most popular time to see it is late night on Christmas Eve when the magic of Christmas is in the air.

"I was originally motivated by my own family, but when I saw how well it was received by the family and neighbors, it was enlarged from there," Mr. Marsh said. "We now have a natural setting up here by the lake."

"We try to re-arrange and create a little different each year and also like to have some attraction during daylight hours as well as at night. Plans for new displays are made a year in advance, and we draw diagrams to be ready for next year."

This year, the new feature is Santa Claus behind a ship's steering wheel representing Port Colborne's involvement in shipping. The wheel is from an old passenger ship that travelled through the Great Lakes. A new fountain this year is illuminated by colored flood lights.

Comments from people who visit are the main motivation behind the whole thing. "We receive comments all year round from many and varied sources, not just local," Mr. Marsh said. "Occasionally, we get some written messages from children."

Setting up for the display usually takes about two or three weeks and the family receives a lot of help from neighborhood children. Mr. Marsh said this contributes to a complete lack of vandalism as the kids look on the display as their own.

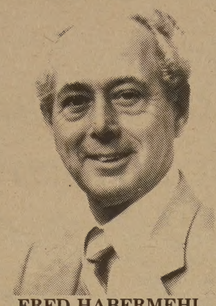
"They police it themselves and stop anyone if they try to steal anything," Mr. Marsh said. "It kind of justifies your faith in youth."

You know Dasher, Dancer ...

JACQUELINE ROBARTS
College President

Jacqueline Robarts, college president, says she basically has what she wants in life — but she "wouldn't mind two weeks in Hawaii with Tom Selleck."

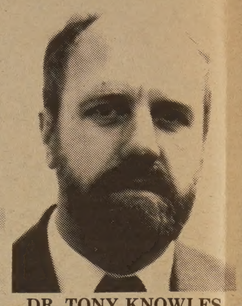
Miss Robarts said she is planning to spend Christmas at home with friends and is "looking forward to rest and relaxation and enjoyment of the festive period."



FRED HABERMEHL
Dean of Applied Arts and Health Sciences

"Christmas is a time for families. It's a time for sharing, especially sharing with those who don't have families," Fred Habermehl, dean of applied arts and health sciences, said.

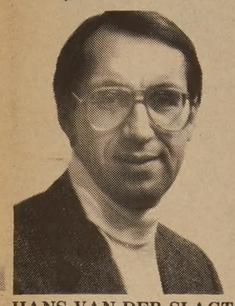
Mr. Habermehl will be spending Christmas at home with his family this year. On Boxing Day Mr. Habermehl's four daughters and four grandchildren will be coming over, and on the Saturday the entire family will be going over to his mother's house.



DR. TONY KNOWLES
Dean of Applied Science and Technology

Dr. Tony Knowles, dean of applied science and technology, doesn't quite know what he wants for Christmas. "What do I want for Christmas? That's a tough one. I haven't even thought about that."

There is no doubt about plans for the holiday however. "Just a family Christmas with my wife and daughters. Nothing exciting. I'm not going to any exotic places," he said. Perhaps that could be Santa's gift.



HANS VAN DER SLAGT
Dean of Business

Hans van der Slagt, dean of business, asks for only one thing from Christmas this year: a long rest with his family and to paint and draw.

For the New Year he expects new challenges and hopes for creative ways to manage them in a collective manner.

KATHLEEN HARVEY
SAC President

Kathleen Harvey, Student Administrative Council president, said her Christmas wish is for all students to have their concerns heard and for students to have a vote on the Board of Governors. Over the holidays she plans to ski and visit with family and friends — just taking it easy.

JOAN HASTINGS
Union President

A relaxing "getaway to Acalpulco for two weeks" is Joan Hastings' Christmas wish. It will be her sixth trip to the southernly city.

Mrs. Hastings is hoping for a continuation of the quality of education and accomplishments at Niagara College for the New Year. "I think we're all looking for good things at Niagara College."

Bullpit

Media, business destroy true spirit of Christmas

By MARTIN POKOL
Staff Writer

If Christmas were abolished, the Christian world would be a dismal place in which to live. There would be no excitement, the enjoyment of giving would be gone, and people would isolate themselves into an emotional wasteland.

At Christmas time, people tend to get a warm thankful feeling, a feeling of peace and harmony. It is a time when people forget about their problems and are more charitable. People experience a feeling of love, only to have this feeling perverted with commercialization of products by big business.

This holiday season is a time for family get-togethers, to be happy and full of cheer.

Instead, the mass media, along with big business, have mutilated the true spirit of Christmas. Christmas has become an industry, a ritualistic holiday for people to drink, eat, and spend in excess.

It is a time when religious values are swept under the immoral carpet.

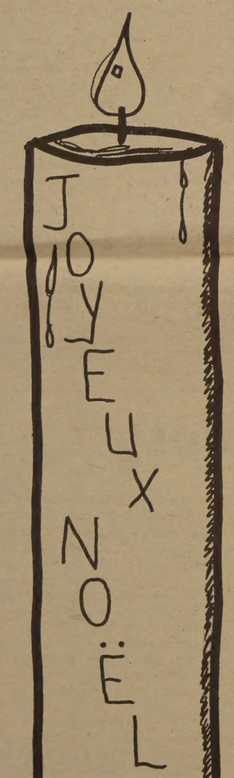
People tend to regard Christmas as an accountant's ledger: what they will receive as gifts, instead of what they will give to others.

In a sense, I believe that Christmas has been abolished already. There is no feeling of giving; some people even look down upon the Salvation Army's Christmas fund.

How far have we as a society slipped away from the true spirit of Christmas. Do we even think of Jesus Christ on that day? Do we go to church?

Is it possible that we are caught in a web of drunkenness, and gluttonous behavior? That is a question every person should ask himself.

For most of us, our emotional wasteland is already here. A pagan ritual that was turned into a Christian holiday centuries ago has come full circle: from a conscious remembrance of Christ's birth, to a perverted excuse for giving.



Joy! Oh to be a wallaby now Christmas time is here

By MAUREEN MARTIN
Staff Writer

There are only a few shopping days left until Christmas and many are struggling to find unique gifts.

How about giving mum a mink?

Or a friend a ferret?

Or that bothersome brother a boa constrictor?

And for that special teacher? A tarantula, of course.

All these animals, and more are available from the Toronto Zoological Society through the zoo's Adopt an Animal program. Anyone interested can call 1-284-9065 for details.

There are about 4,000 animals waiting for new parents. Since the animals will prefer to keep their present homes, parents won't have to clean up after them.

David Gougeon, director of administration for the zoological society, said people can enrol themselves, friends or relatives as parents for a year for anywhere between $15 and $2,500. The cost is "based on the cost of feeding the animal."

All proceeds are tax deductible and go towards care and habitat maintenance. The average food bill at the zoo is about $500,000 a year.

People who call generally want the more well-known animals, like elephants and giraffes. Elephants are expensive, costing $2,500. Mr. Gougeon said it is possible to share in parenting the expensive animals for as little as $15.

Smaller animals don't cost as much. For example, $15 will allow the adoption of an arrow poison frog. "It's really cute," he said. "Any princess would not hesitate to kiss this frog."

Every parent gets a certificate of adoption, an adoption decal, an invitation to the zoo's annual parents' party and their names will be displayed at the zoo as a parent.

Mr. Gougeon said that while people usually think of this program only at Christmas, adoptions are available all year.

"We have animals for any gift-giving occasion," he said. There have been beavers for Canada Day, love birds for Valentine's Day and snakes for birthdays.

The program, launched in 1984, has been well received, Mr. Gougeon said. The zoo has managed to raise about $60,000 and "much of this comes from the lower priced and shared adoptions."

Nutcracker: Christmas magic on stage

By SUSAN WRAY
Staff Writer

When Carousel Players came to Welland, they offered area children a trip down a magical road, somewhere over the bridge of reality, to a far away land called fantasy.

The world premiere of this adaptation of The Nutcracker was held Nov. 27. The story famous in music and ballet was adapted for the stage by Winn Bray and directed by Duncan McGregor.

A Christmas delight, The Nutcracker captured the hearts of many as was apparent when voices broke from the audience chanting "C'mon, Nutcracker" when a dual broke out on stage, or when whistling lasted well into another scene when Marie donned her new Christmas dress.

Throughout, the audience responded enthusiastically to humor and suspense.

A rotating set worked wonderfully in changing the scene from a king's castle in a far-away land, to the living room on Christmas Eve of the children Marie and Fritz, portrayed believably by Mary Lawliss and Mike Jenkinson.

In Act 1, the castle, simple yet plausible, set the scene for the tragic curse that was transferred from the king's daughter to the beggar's son after he heroically saved her by cracking a nut.

The appearance of Mouse Rink, a puppet, spouting evil threats in a shrill voice, shocked and delighted simultaneously.

A more serene setting in the second act, complete with a fireplace, warmth and Christmas magic, conveyed the enchantment of Christmas Eve stirring anticipation both on and off stage.

A wooden figurine of a nutcracker slipped slyly under the tree by the children's godfather, Drosselmier, portrayed delightfully by Tom McDonald, led to a series of surprising events.

Marie's brother, Fritz, rejects the figurine as ugly, but she adopts the Nutcracker for her own.

Suspense and excitement fill the stage as the Nutcracker, portrayed by Philip Sheppard, magically comes to life and is challenged by a creature with mulitiple heads — The King of Mice.

A dream that takes Marie to a castle and the curse that was laid upon the young boy was created most effectively by sound that filled the auditorium.

Along with a versatile cast that moved easily into different roles, colorful costumes and a workable set, the Nutcracker was successful in arousing an array of emotions along with a message that the power of love can achieve most anything.

After four performances at Centennial, Carousel took the production on tour. It was to return to Brock Playhouse in St. Catharines yesterday for a week.

Ambulance club raising money

Santa Claus and his assistant, a Christmas tree, both ambulance club members in disguise, were selling tickets Dec. 2, for a Christmas draw to raise money to buy supplies for the ambulance purchased last year.

Ambulance students Shannon Lough and Steve Clifford were helping.

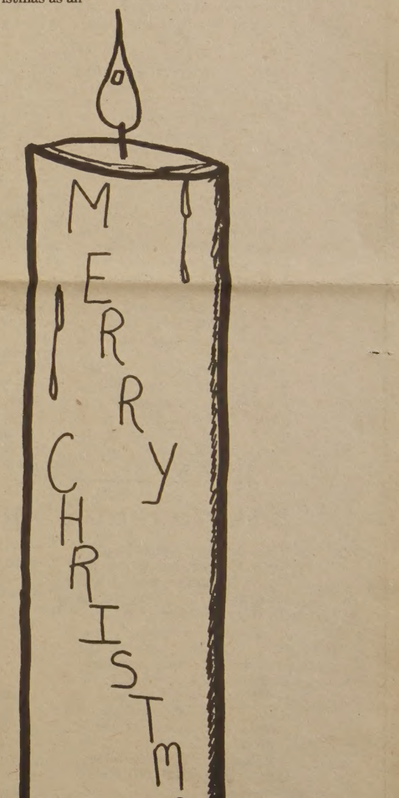
Two thousand tickets at $1 each should have been sold by the time the draw is held in the Black Walnut building today.

The winner of the first prize will get assorted beverages, a mix for the drinks, a 20-pound turkey and a 10-pound ham.

The second prize winner will get a 20-pound turkey, a 10-pound ham and a bottle of beverage.

The third prize is a 10-pound ham and a beverage.

Santa said he was known as "Pops", but was reluctant to identify himself. The tree refused to be identified.



Christmas spirit brought to Dunnville seniors

By MARLENE NAGEL
Staff Writer

The spirit of Christmas greets staff and residents alike as they walk down the hallways of Grandview Lodge, a senior citizens' home in Dunnville. Santa Claus and his reindeer, including Rudolph, wish visitors "Merry Christmas" as they enter through the front doors while dozens of Christmas decorations capture the eye. Beautiful paintings, done by some of the residents, hang on the walls.

The residents of Grandview Lodge have caught the Christmas spirit. Carols are heard over the speakers throughout the lodge. Television sets in lounges and residents' rooms are used to watch the Christmas specials. Christmas music can be heard on the pianos at the lodge, "played either by residents, staff or volunteers who come in to entertain the residents," Cyndee Case, a health care aide, said.

Throughout the year, groups come to the lodge to bring something special to the lives of the residents. Rainbow Connection, a song and dance group composed of students from Grades 7 to 13, comes into the lodge to perform in the auditorium. The group walks through the halls singing Christmas carols to residents who don't get out much, as do some church youth groups and school children. Gospel groups perform for the residents. One group that frequently performs at the lodge is the Senior Entertainers, with Wilson Brooks, a blind piano player. Beulah Suter or Marjorie Dickson come every Saturday night to play the piano for the residents.

The residents in the Evergreen Wing for bed care spend their Christmas at the lodge while most other residents go home. The bed care patients enjoy their Christmas just as much for the auxiliary presents each of them with a present and corsages. The staff has extra time to spend with these patients on Christmas and to help them open their presents and dress for Christmas dinner. They sing Christmas songs and "feel just like one big family," Mrs. Case said. "The staff also helps the residents to decorate their rooms if they wish."

The staff at the lodge and other local groups hold Christmas parties for the residents, as well as birthday parties, anniversary parties and celebrations for other occasions.

Grandview Lodge is like a town all on its own. "We're pretty well self-contained here," Mrs. Case said. "We have a plant room and a television room."

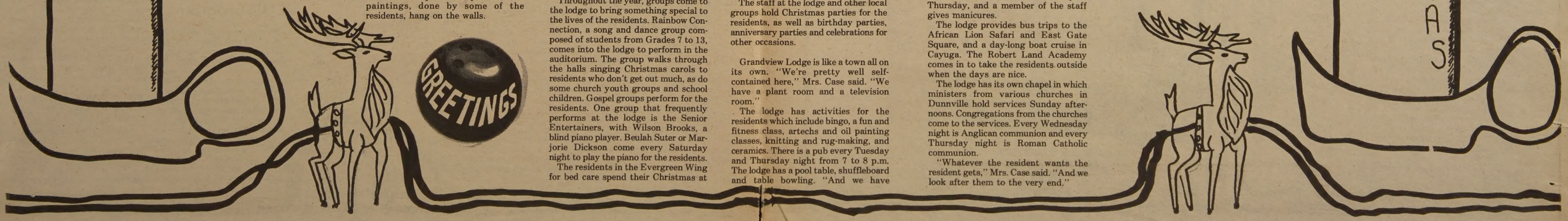
The lodge has activities for the residents which include bingo, a fun and fitness class, artechs and oil painting classes, knitting and rug-making, and ceramics. There is a pub every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7 to 8 p.m. The lodge has a pool table, shuffleboard and table bowling. "And we have wheelchair races at midnight," Mrs. Case said with a laugh.

The lodge has a volunteer come in every Friday to get the residents' shopping lists to buy whatever they would like from the stores. Two clothing shops in Dunnville, Ramseys and DeeAnns, come in for the residents to do their shopping from their stores. Another volunteer comes in to read books to people who can't see to read any more. A hairdresser comes in from Monday to Thursday, and a member of the staff gives manicures.

The lodge provides bus trips to the African Lion Safari and East Gate Square, and a day-long boat cruise in Cayuga. The Robert Land Academy comes in to take the residents outside when the days are nice.

The lodge has its own chapel in which ministers from various churches in Dunnville hold services Sunday afternoons. Congregations from the churches come to the services. Every Wednesday night is Anglican communion and every Thursday night is Roman Catholic communion.

"Whatever the resident wants the resident gets," Mrs. Case said. "And we look after them to the very end."



Not in my backyard, people tell OWMC

By PAT BAREVICH
Staff Writer

The message was clear — NIMBY — not in my backyard — or in anyone else's backyard.

More than 1,500 people turned out at the People Power rally Nov. 29 to tell Dr. Donald Chant and the Ontario Waste Management Corporation (OWMC) that they did not want a toxic waste dump built on West Lincoln farmland.

The rally, held at the Garden City Arena in St. Catharines, included various speakers and a concert afterwards by Murray McLauchlan.

The speakers told the crowd they considered the OWMC's proposal seriously flawed and irresponsible. The eight speakers agreed that toxic waste had to be eliminated, but felt the best way to treat it was through reduction, recycling and treatment at the source.

Frank Giovanonne, chairman of the West Lincoln Task Force and the rally's organizer, asked "How dare they dump toxic wastes on the land we grow food on for our most precious possessions — our children?"

Professor John Jackson of Brock University, said the OWMC's proposal was "seriously flawed" and the OWMC was "underestimating the risks involved." He emphasized again that toxic wastes should be reduced, recycled and treated at their source.

NOT SAFE

Prof. Jackson stated forcefully that "landfills are not safe — ultimately they leak — and we're talking about a destroyed water system in this area." He did not want to see the "Niagara Peninsula become some sort of sacrifice area for the rest of the province."

Shirley Wright, another Task Force member, felt the OWMC's plans were a "monstrous proposal." "Why in God's name would we in Ontario want to start using a system they've ceased to use in the U.S.?"

Commenting on the OWMC plan to model the proposed rotary kiln in West Lincoln after that of Biedeshiem, West Germany, she said, "We have pictures" showing "huge clouds of white poisonous smoke during the day — and at night the smoke turns color." The Black Forest is being ruined by this smoke.

She was also deeply concerned about the number of trucks that would be travelling through the Niagara farmland to the West Lincoln dump site.

JUST ONE

With 180 or more trucks travelling up and down Victoria Avenue, "can we really believe toxic trucks won't spill?" One accident will do irreversible damage — just one."

Speaker Gary Atamanyk seemed to speak for the crowd when he said, "I am part of Niagara and Niagara is part of me — we cannot allow a toxic waste dump to be built in Niagara."

Mr. Atamanyk echoed the other speakers' sentiments when he said they all had a responsibility to defend and protect their children from harm. "We must all stand together to eliminate this threat to the safety and peace of our family."

Pat Hayes, an environmental activist and a mother of three children, agreed saying, "It's right to fight for what you believe in and we all have a responsibility to do so." Mike Collins, a Niagara College English instructor, felt that the "closeness of the toxic waste facility" was a serious concern for the "health of young and old and the food chain."

All the speakers shared a common outrage for what they considered to be the flawed and narrow-minded proposal of the OWMC. They agreed there had to be a better way to deal with toxic wastes than the OWMC's proposal for West Lincoln, and all the speakers emphasized they were committed to finding a better solution.

Welland Museum a magical place

By PHIL BEATTY
Staff Writer

As he gently unwraps an aged Dominion of Canada flag he holds his breath. After removing layers of acid-free tissue paper, he unfolds the flag and checks it. Except for a few small rips in the soiled fabric, the crest is undamaged and clear and it seems to fit perfectly into a display of military nurses' uniforms. Mac Swackhammer, curator of the Welland Historical Museum, seems pleased.

The old flag is but one of many new additions to the museum. It has a new location and new curator director who feels it is "sure to be a success at opening people's eyes to Welland's history."

Costs

The artifacts at the museum have history embedded and imprinted right on them and Mr. Swackhammer, curator director, said that people can relate to that better than they can to a book full of written facts from someone else's point of view. "We preserve things so its voice can be heard for generations to come. Every object has a cultural signifigance.

Mr. Swackhammer said a broad cross-section of people come to look at the displays, some for entertainment, some to learn. "The only problem is that people have the idea that if you've seen it once, you've seen everything. The displays change all the time and there's always something new to see.

There are four basic galleries in the museum, the discovery gallery, where children can play games and make crafts; the canal room, with the history of Welland's canals laid out with photos and displays; the social history gallery, with neutral Indian and United Empire Loyalist displays; and the 1890 city street display, which houses a blacksmith's shop, general store and schoolroom. The room gives off a feeling all its own.

MAC SWACKHAMMER

The museum officially opened its new location, 65 Hooker St. on May 26, 1984, although the move from its former location on South Pelham Road took a year and a half to complete. Mr. Swackhammer replaced Jane Davies, the museum's first professionally trained curator.

The museum began as a project of the Welland Historical Society. It opened in the 1970's in an old building on South Pelham Road and was opened seasonally. The building proved to be too old, however, and in the early 1980s, the decision was made to move.

The museum has its own board of directors which establishes guidelines that must be carried out by Mr. Swackhammer and his assistant, Diane O'Neill. "The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture supplies us with a core operating grant, based on what we raise ourselves, and the city of Welland gives us a grant of $20,000," Mr. Swackhammer said. "We also receive core funding of about $12,500 but our operating expense is close to $60,000. We have a very old building here which costs about $1,000 to heat in the winter." Mr. Swackhammer said the museum also receives generous contributions from businesses in Welland.

History

You have to be a historian, folklorist and graphic artist all at once. People don't realize how long it takes or the cost of putting up an exhibit. Lights, humidity, dust, heat and movement can be very hard on the pieces," he said

"Only 10 per cent or less of the museum's collection is on display at one time and the rest is kept in storage rooms in the basement.

The museum is open all year round, except Sundays and Mondays. Admission is $1 for adults and 50 cents for seniors and children.

SAC donates $500 to UW

The Student Administrative Council donated $500 to the United Way, most of which was raised at the Beach Party pub at the AquaDuck Dec. 3.

"We can work miracles" is the theme for this year's United Way South Niagara campaign, since miracles are happening every day with their help.

The United Way and its 22 member agencies help hundreds of people each year who look for food, shelter, friendship, recreation, and personal and family counselling.

Julianna had Gillian Beret Syndrome and was unable to walk. Transportation was funded by the United Way to enable her to get to the Niagara Rehabilitation Centre. Julianna can walk again through the therapy she received.

Mary Ann is attending a regular pre-school nursery through the Jack and Jill integration program that is providing special assistance for Mary Ann's development, another agency helped by the United Way.

"We are considered one of the most successful small United Ways," Fay Owen, executive director of United Way of South Niagara, said.

"The money the community gives to us doesn't belong to the United Way; it belongs to the community," Mrs. Owen said.

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Voice to make music video

By GARY BELLINGER
Staff Writer

A group of Niagara College students, who form the band The Voice, are making a music video which they hope to enter in the CBC Telefest video contest in April.

The video, Whisper, is being directed by Brian Pennanen, the group's keyboard player, who wrote the lyrics. The video is about a manager sitting in an office reading a magazine when a beautiful girl comes out of the magazine and asks him to follow her to where the band is.

The band, which has been together for three years, consists of Brian on keyboards and backup vocals; Rob Rabian, lead vocals; Chris Pierog, drums; Steve Kerr, and Ron Macoretta on guitars.

This is the band's first recording and will cost between $800 and $1,000. "If the opportunity comes up, we will try to do more," Brian said. "A lot of St. Catharines bars are playing the song right now."

The total video is about 2½ minutes in length and there will be two more sessions which will take about another 20 hours of shooting. One session will be shot at the Rainbow Centre and the other at the Victoria Park Hotel, both in Niagara Falls.

The shooting for the warehouse scene of the video took three days to shoot, although it will cover only 40 seconds in the video. "The music is played back from the control room into the studio where the band members act to the sound of the music," Lorraine Humphrey, script assistant and third-year RTV student, said. "The rest of the video will be set up in an office setting."

The warehouse setting was created by putting up empty boxes begind the band. "Originally, the video was to be done in an actual warehouse, but it was not convenient, although it would have been interesting," Claudio Campagiorni, technical director, said.

It will all be put together during editing when it is organized by lipsync. "It will take about 100 hours of editing and should be done by February," Brian said.

On the set, two cameras are isolated, with one relaying its picture to the videotape recorder, operated by Rob Riselli in the sound van. "All lighting and sets were worked on from eight in the morning to 12:30 p.m., all for 40 seconds of video, but it was worth it," Claudio said.

At the moment, the band is playing the college and high school circuit and local bars. It has played quite a few times at Uncle Sam's in Niagara Falls.

"The band plays top 40 rock and roll, cover songs and dance music," Brian said. "We represented the college at a talent contest at the Harbor Castle Hilton in Toronto and finished fourth."

"The CBC competition is open to all Ontario colleges and universities with RTV or film programs," Lorraine said.

Fifth consecutive win for ambulance course

The ambulance and emergency care program won its fifth consecutive Corpsuckle Cup award by donating the most blood by a program at Niagara College's annual blood donor clinic Nov. 27.

Although the Red Cross were happy with the 293 pints of blood received from the donors, the overall donations were down by eight per cent from last year's 318 pints.

"I am a little bit disappointed with the drop in donations this year," Eugene Maltais, political science instructor, said. The main problem was a break down in the advertising of the clinic because only 9.2 per cent of the total college population donated blood.

The Red Cross were really pleased because anything over 250 pints of blood is a real success, Mr. Maltais said.

Ambulance and emergency care donated 43 pints of blood; 89.5 per cent of the students participated.

LAW'S GOOD TURNOUT

Law and security had an excellent turnout by donating 65 pints of blood; but because there are many more students in this program, their percentage was lower.

Some other programs that came out in large numbers were the electrical engineering department, business administration (personnel), and the tourism program.

"It has been a pretty good day," Dave Rapelje, SAC vice-president of external affairs, said. "I'm glad that the students have taken an interest in the clinic." He hoped the clinic will have a better turnout next year.

Because of poor attendance at the donor clinic in the past, Mr. Maltais came up with the idea of the Corpsuckle Cup 10 years ago to encourage participation.

The original cup which was stolen six years ago was designed by Mr. Maltais. It was a flower bouquet holder, sprayed with gold paint attached to a wooden base, all resting on a one-gallon antifreeze can.

The winning program would have had its name typed on a band-aid fixed to the cup. Today's cup is just a large plaque with the winning program's name engraved on it. It is displayed close to the library.

Presentation of the cup will be held in January when the final percentages have been worked out.

$2,500 improvements for tech program

Thanks to financial assistance from a contractor organization, improvements are being made to the construction technology program.

The program has received $2,500 in grants from the General Contractors Association of Niagara (GCAN) this year, Hans Miethig, program co-ordinator, said. A $1,500 donation was presented by John Davis, treasurer of GCAN, in November. The president of the organization, Bill Kandracs, gave the program a cheque for $1,000 in the spring.

The money will go toward buying computers for the students to practise their lessons. The interest accrued since the spring will go toward buying software for the system.

The construction program depends "on this type of support and guidance from the industry and keeping the program up to date," Mr. Miethig said.

The only money not spent on the computer system was $250 that went toward supplementing the fee for five senior students to attend a seminar on construction superintendents.

The companies involved with GCAN have always shown support when placing Niagara students in both summer and post-graduate work. "There is a lot of mutual respect between the industry and the graduates of the college," technology chairman George Rowbottom said.

The computers will be used by the construction technology students only. Employers in the construction industry are now using micro-computers to pass along procedures and prepare estimates and cost-control statements. "It is our attempt to prepare the students to face this kind of work," Mr. Miethig said.

Sober guess wins radio

Tom Plut, first-year mechanical engineering and drafting design student, won a Sanyo radio for coming closest to the number of empty beer cans in the car displayed in the Tecumseh centre during Alcohol Awareness Week.

Tom, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, had one guess of 1,318 which beat more than 300 others. The guesses, some mathematically calculated, ranged from 200 to 52,000 but the winning number was 1,312.

"I was just lucky," Tom said.

Alcohol Awareness Week was sponsored by Student Administrative Council and organized by Carri Emerick, vice president of internal affairs, to increase awareness on the seriousness of drinking and driving.

Staff fitness tests in '87

Staff members who will enjoy their Christmas dinners and holiday food festivities might have cause to worry; the New Year will bring a fitness evaluation provided by the athletic department.

Five areas will be tested: cardio-respiratory endurance, body weight and composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility; a fat calliper test will be done to determine desirable body weight.

Judy Halaiko, who is working on the evaluation, said the purpose is to motivate the general public to pursue a more fit physical body. And Peter Rylander, co-ordinator of athletics, hopes it will make more people aware of the department and help to raise money to buy more equipment.

The physical fitness evaluation will start sometime in January "at the staff members' convenience."

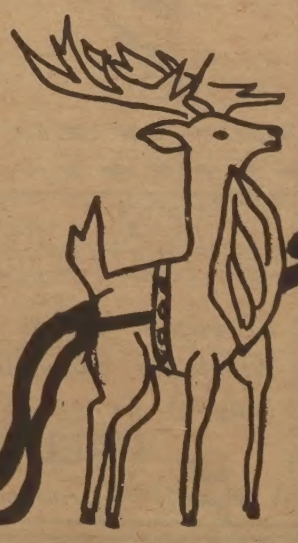
Staff members will be the first to test the evaluation which might be offered to students later.

SWAP speaker in mid-January

A speaker from the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) is coming on campus in mid-January to give updated travel information and advice on the program.

The SWAP program, sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), is open to full or part-time students between the ages of 18 to 30 inclusive who would like to work in a foreign country.

SWAP information is available at the Student Administrative Council office and at the co-op counselling office in the college.



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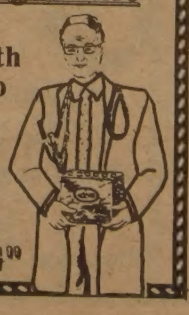

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ENTERTAINMENT

In an adventure to uncover the secret of Captain Kidd's buried Treasure on the mysterious Oak Island, two evil pirates, Scavenger John, standing and his partner Seadog, search Captain Bones to find the answer in the Theatre Centre's Christmas production.

Photo by Susan Wray

Bad luck plagues year-end concert

Bad luck seems to plague the Niagara College Jazz Band's Christmas concert. It was cancelled last year because of a blizzard and the audience this year was only medium size. But the bad weather last Monday night didn't prevent A Swingin' Christmas from playing in the Hamilton Room.

"For the first four or five numbers the band played without drummer John Multari. He had to come from Toronto and was delayed because of the weather.

"Despite this the band did exceptionally well," Gail Hilyer, director of continuing education, said.

The band was very professional and a great sound came out of them.

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Legend proves entertaining

By SUSAN WRAY
Staff Writer

A legend of adventure, haunting encounters, buried treasure and evil pirates set the stage for the Niagara College Theatre Centre's first production of the season, The Mystery of the Oak Island Treasure.

The award-winning play by Jim Bretts, directed by Valerie Grabove, tells of two Nova Scotian children caught up in the search for Captain Kidd's buried treasure on the mysterious Oak Island. The Christmas entertainment for thousands of area school children opened last Tuesday and concludes tomorrow.

Adventurous

The adventurous and mischievous spirit of Diana Hawkins was captured with childlike ease by Sue Miller as she prods her less than enthusiastic brother Jason, Steve Erb, onto excursions he would have just as soon have done without.

The creative use of light allowed the audience a view of the mysterious island, with its flickering lights, through the window of the Pirates Cove Inn where the children and their ever-concerned mother, Jackie Falle, lived.

A boarder at the Hawkins' home, Dr. Robert Gunn, portrayed by Jeff Dineen, only serves to feed Diana's insatiable appetite for adventure by relaying old tales of the island, much to her mother's dismay.

Claps of thunder, dimming lights, a power failure and the arrival of a new boarder at the Inn, Captain Bones, helped build suspense.

With a gruff voice and a love for rum, the Captain, delightfully played by Darren Toohey, holds the secret of the buried treasure that prompts evil pirates to follow him.

The second act takes the audience from the Pirates Cove Inn to the rocky terrain of Oak Island as curtains, cut into the shape of trees, cross the set projecting a three-dimensional effect.

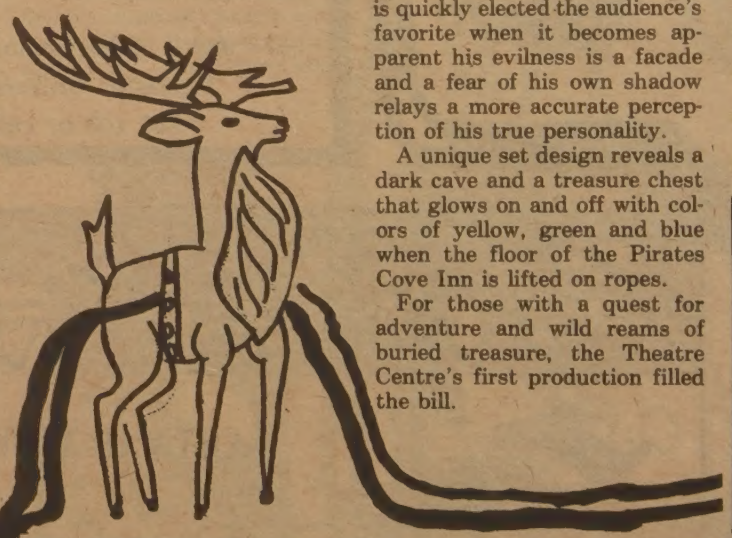
Scuffles involving two evil pirates, Scavenger John, portrayed by Mark Ryder, and Seadog, add humor and spark laughter as they show their determination to stop at nothing in their search for the buried treasure.

Bravery

In a rain cap and oversized pants Seadog professes bravery while his actions tell otherwise. With a fine performance by Fredmike Comrie, this character is quickly elected the audience's favorite when it becomes apparent his evilness is a facade and a fear of his own shadow relays a more accurate perception of his true personality.

A unique set design reveals a dark cave and a treasure chest that glows on and off with colors of yellow, green and blue when the floor of the Pirates Cove Inn is lifted on ropes.

For those with a quest for adventure and wild reams of buried treasure, the Theatre Centre's first production filled the bill.



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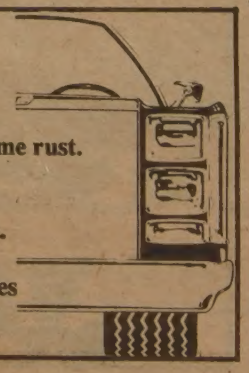

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SPORTS

Mental preparation necessary for women's basketball team

By DONNA MORRISON
Staff writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team will work on better mental preparation for games after losing two games the first week of December, ending the year with a 1-5 record.

"All of us have to be mentally prepared for games as a group prior to the games and work on full-court situations and conditioning," Knights' coach Mizette Critelli said.

These were some suggestions the coaches made after the Knights lost Dec. 2 against the Mohawk Mountaineers in a disastrous 73-33 defeat, and again Dec. 4 to the Seneca Scouts by a close 55-48 margin.

The blowout against Mohawk attributed to a lack of offensive boards by the Knights; it led to Mohawk fast breaks and subsequent scoring.

The score in the first minute of play may have been 2-2, but the Mountaineers quickly expanded to a 20-point lead after eight minutes. Their passing and shooting was accurate; they shot from anywhere around the key, and were not afraid to shoot from the outside, Mizette said the Knights were "timid to shoot" the ball and in future games will try to work on putting the ball up.

Mohawk entered halftime leading Niagara by an amazing 48-17 margin, and that lead was maintained throughout as they capitalized on Niagara's poor rebounding.

Four Knight's players tied for leading scorer as Charlotte Prevost, Donna Stonos, Sue Sbrizzi and Marcia Vanderzanden each had six. Claudia Detilio had 22 points for the Mountaineers.

Though the Knights played a better second half, they could not stop the Mountaineers' fast breaks scoring sprees that highlighted the first half; it resulted in a huge margin, one the Knights could not close in the second half.

MISSED FOULS

The Dec. 4 game showed some improvement over the one played a couple days earlier. But in this game it was the missed foul shots that hurt the team and lost the game for them.

Foul shots were an important factor throughout the first half; they enabled Niagara to tie the score at 21-21 before halftime with less than 30 seconds left. But in the closing minute of the second half, missed foul shots would come back to haunt the Knights.

Charlotte Prevost led the Knights with 11 points followed by Jane Hargreaves with 10. Shirlene Johnston led Seneca with 12.

"We were 11 for 31 from the line," Mizette said. "It was costly."

A see-saw battle was seen in the first half as both teams tried to grab the lead. Niagara led the the first seven minutes 11-5, but Seneca rallied and tied the score at 12-12 before taking the lead 17-15.

Laura Monaghan defends Mohawk Mountaineer player.

Then the foul shots became important to both teams. Seneca completed two foul shots to take the lead from a 19-19 tie with 44 seconds left, but Knights rookie Laura Monaghan came back with her own successful shots to end the half at 21-21.

Poor passing led to Seneca scores and prevented the Knights from scoring 10 minutes during the middle of the second half. But they regained their composure and fought back from an 11-point deficit to come within two points of the Scouts. Missed foul shots in the final seconds proved costly and Seneca won the game.

The team has eight practices before their Seneca tournament Jan. 8-10; the team will take part in an eight-team tournament which includes three Ontario colleges, one American, one Western and three Montreal Colleges.

The Knights' next regular season game is Jan. 13 against the George Brown Huskies, a team they are 2-1 against including exhibition and regular season play.

Playoff chances slim, men Knights lose 3

By BLAIR CARR
Staff Writer

The men Knights' basketball team's playoff hopes are looking slim. Three consecutive losses leave them with a 2-6 record, ninth place in an 11-team tier in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association. They need a sixth place finish to make the playoffs and have to play 500 or better.

In their last game the Knights lost 80-71 to the St. Clair Saints. The story behind the game's outcome was foul trouble and lack of manpower. The Knights, with only seven players for a Friday over-nighter in Windsor, were forced to play part of the second half with only four players. Fred Jashanmal led the way for the Knights with 19 points, Gord Bonisteel has 15 and Larry Bone 13.

In their best game of the three — a heartbreaking 80-79 loss to the George Brown Huskies, they outplayed the opposition for three-quarters of the game. A 19-point Niagara lead midway through the second half was destroyed by a couple of three-pointers and a desperation rally. With nine seconds remaining, a dejected Niagara bench watched a George Brown player tip in a ball that was dancing on the rim.

"We just died. We had 20 points (the lead) and we kept trying to push," Niagara's Chris Mudjar said.

Coach Steve Holman attributed the loss to a "mental letdown" which is "a symptom of first-year players," making up most of the team.

"The team has got to have killer instinct," he said. "We don't and that's what is happening. When we're up by 20 we've got to win by 30."

Niagara's usual standouts had their best nights for points. Jashanmal dominated inside with 35 points while Bonisteel finished off Niagara's fast breaks with unhindered layups to round out the scoring with 22 points.

Against the first place Seneca Braves, the Knights were beaten 86-67 by a better team. The Braves' speed and superior ball movement broke open a tight defensive game.

MORAL VICTORY

"It was a moral victory to keep it (the score) respectable against a team with the second-best record in the league," assistant coach Bob Bedesky said.

He said the team showed a lot of effort by constantly "forcing the play" with their defensive press to cause mistakes and to redeem themselves for their own errors.

"We're known for our turnovers and at least now we forced others to make turnovers," Mr. Bedesky said.

Foul trouble in the later stages of the first half hurt Niagara. Coach Holman disagreed with the refereeing; this led to two technicals and he was ejected at halftime.

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SPORTS

Knights hockey team loses by touchdown

By DOUG IVES
Staff Writer

There is some good news and there is some bad news about the outcome of the Knights' game Saturday night Nov. 29.

The good news is Niagara only lost by one touchdown; the bad news is it wasn't a football game.

The Knights hockey team lost 15-8 to the Erie Community Kats in Niagara's worst effort of the year.

"No excuses — we got whipped," Niagara coach Fred Bassi said. "It is the most goals scored against us playing in Welland in the 17 years."

Niagara's Mark Turner started the scoring picking up the rebound from a Brian Millejours point shot. Mike Korolenchuk followed up with a goal to give the Knights a 2-0 lead. Erie started its comeback less than a minute later on a goal by Tim Wroblewski.

Doldrums

"We've been coming back all year," Erie coach Ralph Galanti said. "We seem to be in the doldrums in the first periods before getting started."

Erie had a 5-3 lead going into the second period. Niagara came within one midway in the second on a power play goal by Neil MacDonald but couldn't get any closer as Erie then scored six goals in a row. Lance Piscitelli made it look easy picking up three goals in five minutes for Erie.

Niagara made a goaltending change to start the third replacing Kirk Patterson with Tony Celli, but Erie went on to score five more goals. The final goal for Erie and the game's 23 was into an empty net and came with nine seconds left.

Future

The Knights will be without the services of one of its top defencemen when they travel to Olean, N.Y., to take on St. Bonaventure, the league's top team. Devis Milani was given a game misconduct for fighting early in Saturday's game and under the league's rules, must sit out the next game.

"The future doesn't look promising and, if the team does turn it around, it will be the biggest comeback the league has seen," Mr. Bassi said.

Niagara scorers were: Ken Thornton with two, Mark Turner, Geoff Staples, Neil MacDonald, Doug Jones, Bob Thrower and Mike Korolenchuk each with one.

Erie scorers were: Lance Piscitelli with three, Tim Wroblewski with two, Len Valvo, Brian Wojnar, Bob Klimowicz, Dennis Staner, John Anderson, P.J. Gross, Joe Herb, Matt Riter, Kevin Hinterberger and Mike Antersol each with one.

Fred Jashanmal: one of the best

By BLAIR CARR
Staff Writer

"And that number 52 — marvellous, an excellent player," Ernie Armstrong, coach of the Seneca Braves, said. "One of the best, if not the best, player in the league — and a good defensive player also."

Surprisingly, Albert Dasilva, coach of the George Brown Huskies, had very similar words about the Knights' star basketball player.

Calling him "one of the best players" in the league, Mr. Dasilva said he "handcuffed" the defence the whole night. Once the Knights' good inside game gets going, he is able to "score at will inside the key."

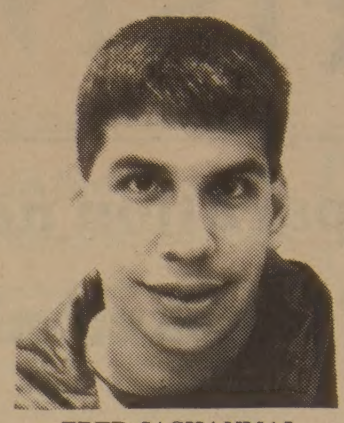
Fred Jashanmal is undeniably the Niagara Knights' best player. These compliments came after he had 30 and 35-point nights in losing efforts.

He was 10th in scoring last year for the Ontario College Athletic Association and stands to do better this year; he is now fourth in scoring, averaging 18 points a game.

At six-foot-eight, 225 pounds, Jashanmal seems tailor-made for the centre position which he has always played.

"I've always had the advantage of being tall and quick for my size," Jashanmal said.

Acting as pivot man inside, the Fonthill resident usually draws the most fouls which he seldom misses and countless field goals are added on. To complement his great offensive sharpness, Jashanmal has surprising quickness enabling him to come back as the team's top defensive rebounder. He pat-



FRED JASHANMAL

terns his play after James Worthy of the Los Angelas Lakers for he "goes to the hoop a lot, likes to dunk and is about my size."

Jashanmal played two years of high school basketball at Beacon Christian in St. Catharines. In the last, the team won the Ontario Association of Private Schools championship. He downplayed this experience, blaming poor coaching, and credited his skills to "just fooling around in the gym."

It was not until last year that he started to play "serious basketball," Jashanmal said.

"First-year exposure in the league (OCAA) makes all the difference in the world. Ninety per cent of the team has had no exposure to this calibre of competition, Jashanmal said.

Jashanmal explained his role on the team: "they need someone to calm them down to try and play intelligent (basketball)."

Unfortunately for the Knights, his role goes beyond just being a calming influence.

"We know Fred will get us 25-30 points a game and if he doesn't, it lowers our chance of winning," Coach Steve Holman said.

Despite this, Jashanmal, who does not keep track of point totals, disagreed that the Knights' game could or should be incorporated around himself.

"You can't run a team around one person," he said. "Eventually the other team will realize this...and crowd around you."

"A team concept has to be emphasized (and) others on the team have to pull their weight."

Jashanmal is a team player but this does not mean he will shirk his responsibility when the going gets tough.

Fortunately for the Knights, Jashanmal will be back next year bigger and better than ever.

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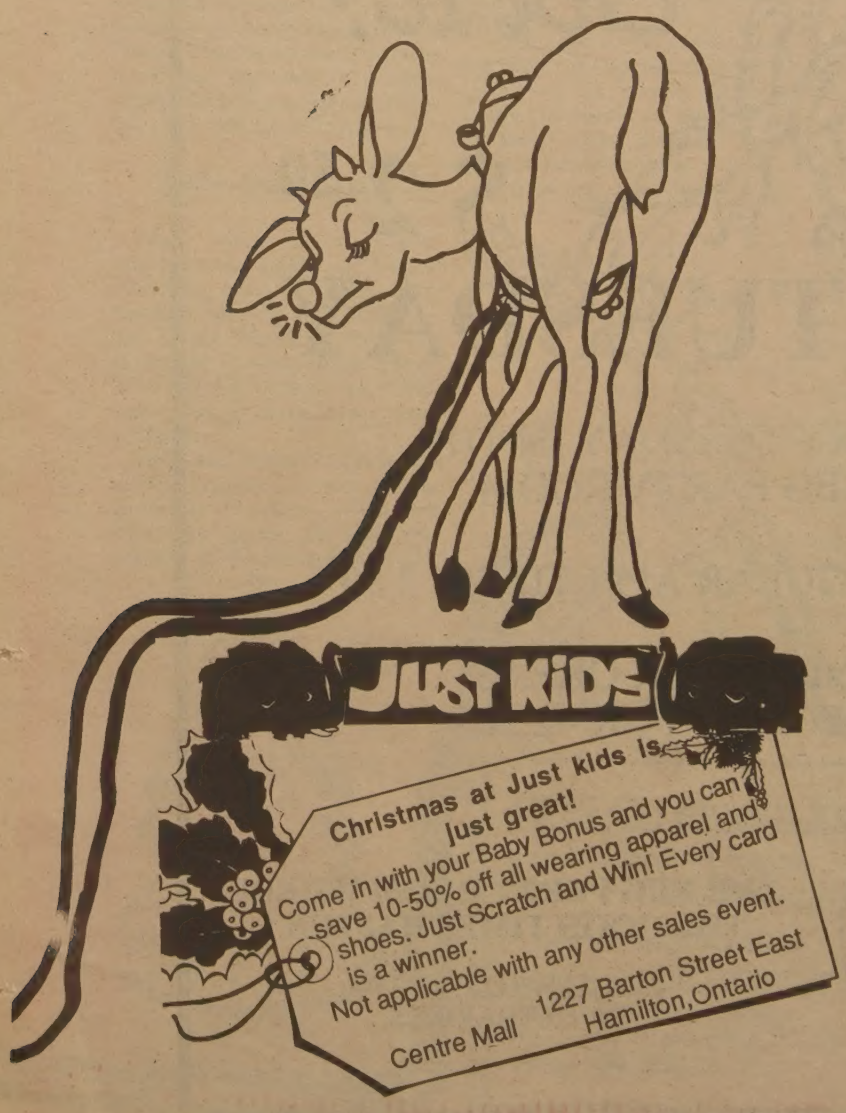
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